

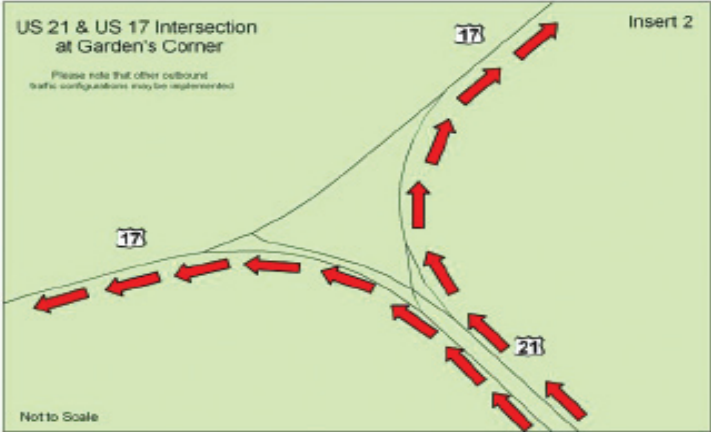
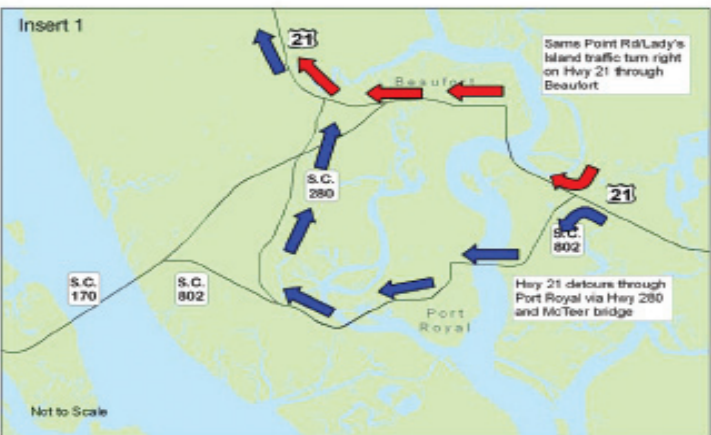
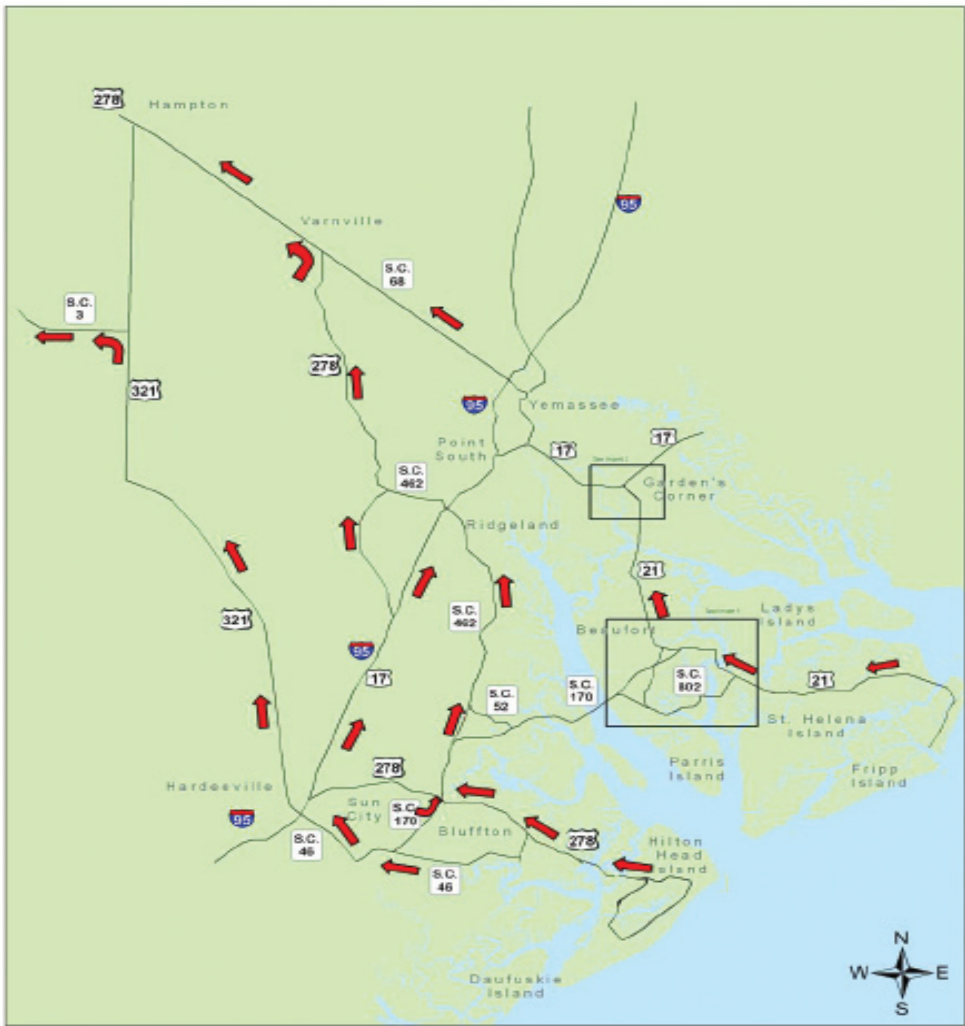
2011 HURRICANE READINESS GUIDE



INSIDE:

Local evacuation routes.....	Page 2
What happens during an evacuation.....	Page 3
Tri-Command are evacuation plan.....	Page 4
What Shelters Are Available.....	Page 5
Preparing for hurricane season.....	Page 6
What to do with your pets.....	Page 7
American Red Cross offers aid.....	Page 8

EVACUATION ROUTES FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREA



Map prepared by the Beaufort County
Emergency Management Division
June 1, 2009
Beaufort County Hurricane Re-Entry
Telephone Number
1-800-863-6023

THE PARRIS ISLAND
BOOT

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Deputy Director, Public Affairs.....1st Lt. Melanie Salinas
Public Affairs Chief.....Gunnery Sgt. Bill Lisbon
Press Chief.....Cpl. Russell Midori

Editor.....Barry Kaufman
Editor.....Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

Staff Writer.....Cpl. Sarah A. Fiocco
Staff Writer.....Cpl. J Nava
Staff Writer.....Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton
Staff Writer.....Lance Cpl. Erin Ross
Staff Writer.....Lance Cpl. F. J. Abundes



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Press Chief.....Staff Sgt. Brian Kester

Media Chief.....Sgt. Gina C. Rindt
Editor.....Barry Kaufman
Editor.....Lance Cpl. Josh Pettway

Staff Writer.....Cpl. R. J. Driver
Staff Writer.....Cpl. Courtney C. White
Staff Writer.....Lance Cpl. Justin M. Boling
Staff Writer.....Pfc. Kevin T. Ferguson

What happens during an evacuation

WHAT TO DO:

Create an Emergency Plan

- Meet with family members to create your hurricane plan
- Discuss what items will be needed in case of evacuation
- Decide where you will travel to and plan out your route
- Keep family records in a water and fireproof container
- Plan ahead to take care of your pets
- Prepare a supply kit

Supply Kit

- A list of family physicians
- Credit cards and cash
- Clothing and shoes
- Water supply in one-gallon containers
- Sanitation supplies
- Keep important family documents in a waterproof container
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food; can opener
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- A first-aid kit
- Prescription medicine
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of batteries
- Tire repair kit and pump

When You Leave

- Take your supply kit
- Lock your house
- Fill vehicle with gas
- Use travel routes specified by officials
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes
- Listen to battery-powered radio for the location of emergency shelters
- Follow instructions of local officials
- Let family and friends know where you are going
- If told to do so, shut off water, electricity and gas
- Secure chairs, tables, tools and other loose objects around the yard
- Board windows if you desire. This may prevent tree limbs or debris from breaking windows (taping windows will not prevent them from breaking)
- Close and lock all windows and doors

Cpl. Isaac Lamberth
The Boot Staff Writer

As hurricane season approaches there are many protective measures families within the Tri-Command area can take to protect their homes and valuables.

Preparing for storm emergencies include having an efficient evacuation route or packing provisions to survive for several days.

The evacuation route for Beaufort and Lady's Island is to take Highway 21 to Interstate 95. The Broad River Bridge may be closed for safety reasons depending on the severity of the storm.

In the event families decide to stay in the local area, a survival kit is important to have.

"Service members are encouraged to prepare a hurricane kit at the beginning of hurricane season," said Kristin Miller, marketing manager for Tri-Command Communities.

Miller said a hurricane kit should contain water, nonperishable food, blankets and medicine. Important documents such as birth certificates and social security

cards should be kept inside of a waterproof container.

"You can't pack your whole house," said Dwight Charleston, fire chief for the Parris Island Fire Department. "If it's not absolutely necessary, leave it."

According to Lt. Daniel Byrne, fire marshal for the City of Beaufort Fire Department, people should bring cash in case there are not any automatic teller machines that are working.

"You should take hurricanes seriously," said Byrne. "People shouldn't get complacent."

While service members have the option to evacuate their families during a hurricane, some may choose to send their loved ones to friends and family members who live nearby.

Some storms can become so severe that everyone aboard the depot, including recruits may be required to leave.

"Tri-Command residents in

newly constructed homes are asked to shutter their homes in the event of a category two hurricane or higher," Miller said.

Residents are only responsible to shutter the windows that they can reach without a ladder, Miller said. Hurricane shutters and the associated hardware are provided by Tri-Command Communities.

"Residents in newly constructed homes can find their shutters in their garages or in some cases under their homes," she added.

Residents are also encouraged to unplug all electrical devices and remove any ornaments from outside to prevent them from becoming dangerous projectiles when strong winds occur.

Homeowners are advised to turn off gas and breakers to electricity to avoid fires. They should keep a portable radio with extra batteries so they can listen for any changes.

Miller encouraged families to leave the area in the event a hurricane lands on the shores of South Carolina.



Important information sources

In the event of a hurricane, Parris Island and the Marine Corps Air Station personnel can obtain hurricane information using of the following methods:

Tri-Command Toll-Free Hotline: 800-343-0639

Beaufort County Hotline: 800-963-5023

www.beaufort.usmc.mil (click the weather link)

Monitor local radio and television stations

Tri-Command area hurricane evacuation plan

Cpl. R. J. Driver

The Jet Stream Staff Writer

During this hurricane season, it is important service members' families understand the reality of what could happen during a hurricane and prepare themselves to evacuate if necessary. Knowledge of what could happen and how to handle it could mean the difference between life and death.

The Tri-Command area is called the Lowcountry for a reason; it is an area surrounded by marsh and barely above sea level. With every hurricane season comes the risk of rising sea levels that, even at the lowest hurricane category, will flood parts of the local military installations, said Mark Hamilton, air station operations officer.

As the strength of a hurricane increases, flood waters can be expected to rise significantly engulfing roads and making it extremely difficult to leave or return to the local area.

Local military installations coordinate with the South Carolina and Beaufort County emergency management divisions to determine if an evacuation is required. If the decision is made to evacuate, base officials will determine the appropriate time for service members to evacuate with the approval of the base commanding officer or commanding general.

Neither the air station nor Parris Island have shelters to provide a safe area during a hurricane. Leaving the area as soon as ordered is imperative to ensuring a service member's safety.

In the event of an evacuation, all nonessential per-

“Keeping an updated roster of your Marines, sailors and civilians, accurate contact numbers and monitoring storm-related websites or TV and radio broadcasts are the best ways to stay informed during a hurricane.”

Mark Hamilton
MCAS operations officer

sonnel and their families will evacuate. However, others will have tasks to complete before leaving — such as busing recruits and disseminating press releases. The respective commands will notify all personnel of what their specific roles will be in case of an evacuation. However, it is up to the individual service member and his family to know their roles.

For example, for a temporary evacuation, recruits will be taken to Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga. This means service members' families need to be prepared for that.

In such a situation, the potential for damage to property and danger to people increases. While leaving the area is important, finding a way to stay informed and be accounted for is a must.

“Keeping an updated roster of your Marines, sailors and civilians, accurate contact numbers and monitoring storm-related websites or TV and radio broadcasts are the best ways to stay informed during a hurricane,” Hamilton said.

Once a storm passes, a contingency plan will be executed to assess and restore basic services. All per-

sonnel will need to closely follow instructions regarding return-to-base procedures, Hamilton explained. These instructions will be available via the air station and depot Destructive Weather Hotline.

As with any good plan, preparation is key. Lowcountry residents are advised to not wait until the last minute to put a plan in place.

It is a good idea to research proper ways of protecting yourself against the dangers of a hurricane, Hamilton said. Pay attention to the local news, stay informed through reliable sources and prepare a survival kit.

“It is important to have a plan,” Hamilton said. “A short-term plan (up to 10 days) and a long-term plan (up to a month or more) in case the air station and housing areas suffer severe damage and can't facilitate service members' families.”

For more information service members are encouraged to check the following websites: www.stormpulse.com and www.nhc.noaa.gov

Editor's note: Service members can also call the Tri-Command toll-free hotline at 800-343-0639 to learn the installation's current condition of readiness.

Hurricane safety can be a breeze

Cpl. R. J. Driver
The Jet Stream Staff Writer

The Lowcountry is known for its luscious trees, dazzling marshland, wildlife and great fishing locations, which most people take advantage of during the spring and summer months. What some people may forget is that Beaufort is also in a prime area for tropical storms and hurricanes.

As a result, the South Carolina shore is often hit with heavy winds

that can ruin a perfect day, or worse, leave families without power and damaged homes.

According to the Beaufort County Emergency Management website, <http://www.co.beaufort.sc.us>, there are five categories for how powerful wind is, with Category 1 being the least severe and Category 5 being the most severe.

To prepare for such events, residents should have an evacuation plan and a power-loss plan. In the event of power loss, the Beaufort County web-

site suggests purchasing a generator to power essentials such as a refrigerator and possibly one whole room. If residents are in immediate danger and have to evacuate the area, there are prescribed evacuation routes for the Lowcountry.

As a precaution, Beaufort County has instituted several locations to be used as shelters in the event all residents are unable to evacuate quickly and safely enough in case of a natural disaster.

According to the Beaufort County web-

site, the winds of a hurricane (74 miles per hour or more) can be very dangerous. For some structures, wind force is sufficient to cause destruction. Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to hurricane winds that can spawn tornadoes, which contribute to incredible destruction.

The greatest threat from hurricane winds is their cargo of debris — a deadly barrage of flying missiles such as lawn furniture, signs, roofing, trees, siding, etc.

Wind Damage

The extent of wind damage is based upon the hurricane's strength or wind speed.

Flying debris or projectiles such as signs, trees, glass, roof shingles, lawn furniture and toys can cause severe property damage as well as major injuries or even death.

The National Hurricane Center uses the Saffir Simpson Scale to classify hurricanes by their wind speeds into five categories.

Category 1

- Winds 74 to 95 mph
- Minimal structural damage
- Mobile homes at risk
- Power lines, signs and tree branches blown down
- Storm surge, four to five feet

Category 2

- Winds 96 to 110 mph
- Moderate structural damage to walls, roofs and windows

Category 3

- Mobile homes at greater risk
- Large signs and tree branches blown down
- Storm surge, six to eight feet

Category 4

- Winds 131 to 155 mph
- Extreme damage to structures and roofs
- Trees uprooted
- Storm surge, 13 to 18 feet

Category 5

- Winds in excess of 155 mph
- Catastrophic damage
- Structures destroyed
- Storm surge, 18 feet or more

Shelters Available

Regular Shelters

- Bluffton High School**, 12 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton (capacity 1,128)
- Battery Creek High School**, 1 Blue Dolphin Drive, Beaufort (capacity 1,086)
- Bluffton Elementary School**, 160 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton (capacity 439)
- Okatie Elementary School**, 1657 Okatie Highway, Okatie (capacity 390)

Note: Beaufort County may use these shelters only in a Category 1. No shelters are opened locally for any storm that is a Category 2 or more. During a Category 2 storm or greater, alternate shelters will be set up in other counties. Law enforcement security will be provided at each shelter.

Special-Needs Shelters

- Beaufort Elementary School**, 1800 Prince St, Beaufort (Capacity 407)
- H.E. McCracken Middle School**, 250 H.E. McCracken Circle, Bluffton (capacity 358)

Note: These shelters provide limited medical assistance from nurses/attendants

(such as helping patients with taking shots, cleaning a wound, changing a dressing, and basic first aid medical treatment)

Patients that are on any type of equipment that requires electricity should not use this shelter, but should seek relocation to a facility that can accommodate them.

Patients using the special-needs shelter will be required to have a capable caretaker with them.

Items to Bring

The American Red Cross asks that evacuees seeking shelter bring the following items with them to the shelter:

- Change of clothing (enough for several days)
- Linens (pillows, blankets, sheets and towels)
- Any necessary prescription medications
- Child's favorite toys or comfort items
- Formula, diapers and other supplies for your children
- Food/Water

GETTING READY FOR THE HURRICANE

- Stay tuned to a local radio or television station for the latest National Weather Service advisories.
- Check battery-powered equipment; buy extra batteries.
- Keep your car fueled should evacuation become necessary.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs and bottles.
- Obtain extra prescription medications and medical supplies.
- Board windows or protect them with storm shutters.
- Secure outdoor objects that might become debris.
- Learn local evacuation routes and safe routes inland.
- Trim back dead wood from trees.
- Check for loose rain gutters and down spouts.

IF YOU OWN A BUSINESS

- Remove window displays.
- Put protective covering over windows and doors.
- Move inventory to as high a level as possible.

- Remove money and valuable documents.
- Find the safest place for commercial vehicles.

LEAVE EARLY from low-lying beach areas that may be swept by high tides or storm waves. Leave mobile homes for more substantial shelter — they are particularly vulnerable to overturning in strong winds.

BE AWARE that some areas may flood long before the arrival of the storm. Your escape may be further complicated by the fact that high-density populations of some areas may require evacuation orders to be issued earlier than one day before the storm's arrival. Don't get caught by the hurricane in your car on an open coastal road. If the Beaufort County Emergency Management Division advises evacuation of your area, DO SO IMMEDIATELY. Keep your car radio on to listen for further instructions, such as the location of emergency shelters.

-Be alert for tornado watches and warnings as tornadoes are often spawned by hurricanes. Should you receive a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately in an interior bathroom or small hall, preferably below ground level.

Preparing for hurricane season in the Lowcountry

**Lance Cpl.
Josh Pettway**
The Jet Stream Staff Writer

Not everyone has experienced how harsh the weather conditions can become in the Lowcountry area. Even for those who do, it is impossible to be completely prepared for hurricanes. Nonetheless, there are some basic steps that can be taken to help lower the potential dangers during the hurricane season.

A couple things individuals should consider are how much money should be set aside in case of a natural disaster and what a disaster kit should contain. The basic items evacuees should pack are flashlights; food that will not spoil, such as canned goods and packaged food; water, one gallon per person, per day; a working battery-operated radio,

extra batteries and a written family emergency plan.

Individuals can never be too prepared when dealing with natural disasters such as hurricanes. In these instances, support services like the American Red Cross and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society come into play.

According to www.beaufort.usmc.mil, the NMCRS helps service members and their families to evacuate by providing funds to pay for lodging and food if they do not have the means to do so during the evacuation.

In case of emergency, it is helpful for commands to have lists of families evacuation locations and contact information once they arrive at their destination. Service members can fill out a unit family con-

tact sheet in order to help keep their commands aware of their whereabouts.

NMCRS funds will become available for those who need them once the commander of an installation has ordered an evacuation. The funds become available to the installations specific NMCRS chapter, in the form of interest-free loans. According to the income of the applicant, a payment is then set up to fit his needs.

Active-duty service members and retirees are also required to set up a backup allotment, just in case they don't return to file a budget.

The American Red Cross disaster relief focuses on meeting individual's immediate disaster-caused needs and has been a part of disaster-relief services since 1905. In the unfortunate event of a hurricane or any di-

saster, the Red Cross provides food, shelter and health and mental health services.

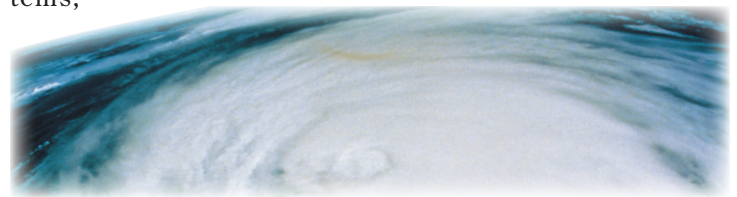
The Red Cross feeds emergency workers, handles inquiries from concerned family members outside the disaster area, provides blood to disaster victims and helps those affected by disaster to access other available resources with the use of their website at www.lowcountryredcross.org

Hurricanes are a constant threat for those living in the Lowcountry. It is best to prepare as much as possible before a hurricane by using the support systems,

which can help guide service members and their families through difficult times.

For more information pertaining to hurricanes and tropical storms, visit www.nhc.noaa.gov and www.bcgov.net. Service members can also call the Tri-Command toll-free hotline at 800-343-0639 to learn what the installation's current readiness condition level is.

For more information about current weather conditions, call the Beaufort County Hotline at 800-963-5023 or the air station Destructive Weather Hotline at 800-343-0639.



NMCRS offers hurricane relief

Cpl. Russell Midori

The Boot Press Chief

When a natural disaster strikes, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can lend a hand to those service members who are financially unprepared.

Finding clean drinking water, food and temporary shelter for a family can become costly when resources are limited by the effects of hurricanes, but the society is prepared to distribute no-interest loans.

Single service members can receive a basic loan of \$300 in assistance, and families rate \$500, said Ron Grindle, director of the Parris Island NMCRS.

The loans become available as soon as the commanding general or commanding officer of an installation issues

an evacuation warning. Even though Marines and sailors will eventually be reimbursed by the federal government for any expenses they use to evacuate, these loans are designed to help with the up-front costs.

Loans may also be granted during a voluntary evacuation, Grindle said. However, service members may not be reimbursed by the government for expenses in the event of an evacuation that is not mandatory.

Grindle said saving money in anticipation of a disaster is the best way for service members to protect themselves and their families, especially in the Tri-Command area, because this part of the country is at high risk for dangerous hurricane conditions.

By this time of the year, military personnel should already have a hearty savings set aside in preparation for disasters, said Sarah Miller, a financial counselor at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

"Service members should have three to six months worth of living expenses in their emergency funds," Miller said. "You'll need adequate money for housing and food."

The amount needed depends on the size of the family, how far they expect to travel and whether or not they plan on staying with relatives. Miller also recommended keeping cash in a hurricane kit, in case banks and ATMs are not available.

If all prior planning fails, victims

of a hurricane will benefit by having NMCRS as their first resource.

"It's good to know the NMCRS will be there if there was ever an emergency, because you never know what's going to happen," said Sgt. Jeron Richardson, a drill instructor with Charlie Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion.

He said military personnel and retirees are fortunate to have the NMCRS, and they shouldn't hesitate to take advantage of the benefit when in need.

"They're giving the loan to you interest free. You can't beat that," Richardson said.

For more information, call the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society aboard the air station at 522-1161, or on Parris Island at 228-3512.

Planning for your pets during perilous weather

Lance Cpl. Justin M. Boling

The Jet Stream Staff

During the hurricane season planning for an evacuation is paramount for families, but what happens to their pets?

Beaufort County disaster shelters do not allow pets, so special plans for pets are necessary. Pet owners should seek refuge with family or friends who live a safe distance away.

"I suggest all pet owners plan to take their pets with them; it will ease a very difficult time for both pet and owner," said Army Capt. Brianne Gustafson, officer in charge of the Parris Island veterinarian treatment facility.

Families should plan accordingly for all their pets.

"Prior and proper planning will save lives of pets and their owners," said Frank Murphy, Beaufort County veterinarian.

Pet owners should also prepare a pet emergency kit for each of their animals including: ample food and at least eight day's worth of water, all the medicine the animal needs, a leash, medical records, photograph of the pet, a blanket and a pet carrier. All of these items may be required to leave animals at a shelter during inclement weather.

"Animal first aid kits are available at most pet stores and can be an invaluable item in a disaster if a pet becomes injured during an evacuation," Murphy said.

Most shelters use a first-come, first-served basis when holding pets, so call ahead of the storm to check for availability.

"It is important to begin training and conditioning pets for some of the situations they may experience during an evacuation," Murphy said.

According to Gustafson, after the inclement weather has passed, new hazards such as familiar landmarks and scents that may be altered or misplaced by the storm, lead to a pet becoming confused or lost.

Pet owners need to be aware of downed power lines and other lethal obstacles a pet may come in contact with. The high water may also cause wild animals to move into areas they do not belong, putting your pet in danger.

If pets are lost during a hurricane, owners

should contact local animal control offices to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Make sure to bring along photos to identify the lost animal.

According to Murphy, having a pet microchipped can lead to pets being returned to owners sooner.

The key to keeping a family and pets safe is preparing before the storm hits. The better a plan, the easier recovering from a disaster will be. The stress of severe weather is felt by all, whether dressed in clothes or fur.



American Red Cross offers local hurricane aid

Cpl. Russell Midori

The Boot Press Chief

Hurricane shelters that have been predetermined, inspected and qualified by the American Red Cross are slated to serve Lowcountry residents in the event of a hurricane evacuation.

The shelters are primarily school buildings and other sturdy structures capable of withstanding violent storms. The most local shelters to the Tri-Command area can be found in Jasper and Hampton counties.

"There is no preregistration required to stay at the shelters," said Carl Statham, disaster coordinator for the Palmetto Service Center, Carolina Lowcountry Chapter of the American Red Cross. "They are first-

come, first-served."

Shelter locations can be found in the 2011 South Carolina Hurricane Guide, which is available online at www.scemd.org.

"You can go online and get a printable copy of it," Statham said. "The information is very good and it should be a part of every emergency kit," he said.

After the storm passes, the American Red Cross personnel keep the shelters open as long as possible to house evacuees, Statham said. Post-disaster shelters will be set up as well. These are structures that may not be strong enough to withstand the storm, but nonetheless can house hurricane victims rendered homeless by the storm.

Although the Red Cross is an

organization that reaches out to everyone regardless of military status, neither the hurricane shelters nor the post-disaster shelters allow pets.

"Doors are open to everyone for the shelters that will be in operation during the hurricane, but there are no pets allowed other than service animals because of the small amount of room that we have in shelters," Statham said.

Statham said the best defense against a hurricane is having a plan, having a well-stocked kit and staying informed. He promises the American Red Cross will be as ready as they can be. Those interested in volunteering can call the Palmetto Service Center at 757-7437.

2011 Atlantic Hurricane Names

Arlene	Lee
Bret	Maria
Cindy	Nate
Don	Ophelia
Emily	Philippe
Franklin	Rina
Gert	Sean
Harvey	Tammy
Irene	Vince
Jose	Whitney
Katia	

The National Hurricane Center cycles through lists of names, deleting names if their associated storm is particularly devastating, so the 2011 storm names are the same as the 2005 storms names, except Dennis is replaced with Don, Katrina with Katia, Rita with Rina, Stan with Sean, and Wilma with Whitney.

When is hurricane season?

June 1 – November 30

What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone, which generally forms in the tropics and is accompanied by thunderstorms and a counterclockwise circulation of winds (in the Atlantic Ocean). Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

Tropical Depression - An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

Tropical Storm - An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.

Hurricane - An intense tropical weather system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined surface circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or more.

What are the hurricane hazards?

Storm Surge: Storm surge is water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the water level 15 feet or more.

Inland Flooding: In the past 30 years, inland flooding has been responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the United States.

High Winds: Hurricane force winds can destroy poorly constructed buildings and mobile homes. Debris such as signs, roofing material, and small items left outside become flying missiles in hurricanes.

Tornadoes: Hurricanes can produce tornadoes that add to the storms destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right front quadrant of the hurricane.

What should I do when a watch or warning is issued?

When a hurricane watch is issued for your part of the coast, this indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your family's disaster plan, and proactive measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc...

When a hurricane warning is issued for your part of the coast, this indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing proactive actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

What actions should you take to be prepared?

Have a family disaster plan and disaster supply kit.

Purchase or use a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio in your home with a tone-alert feature. This will allow you to receive warnings issued by your local National Weather Service office.

Stay tuned to local media.